

at least one gripping element radially displaceable by hydraulic or pneumatic fluid to drivingly engage a tubular to permit a screw connection between said tubular and a further tubular to be tightened to a required torque.

2. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gripping element has an elastomeric gripping surface incorporating projecting metal inserts or saw blades.

3. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gripping element is movable radially outwardly from said body to engage an inside wall of said tubular.

B1 4. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body is connectable to a rotor of said top drive in order to rotate said apparatus.

5. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a sealing packer for engagement with said tubular.

6. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said sealing packer can be activated by the hydraulic or pneumatic fluid.

7. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body is provided with a passage therethrough to allow excess fluid in said tubular to escape therefrom.

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8. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a support (12) for supporting the weight of said tubular during driving engagement of the tubular by said at least one gripping element (5; 105).

B2 9. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a support connectable to a stator of said top drive.

10. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said support is carried by one or more compensating pistons connectable to said top drive.

11. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said compensating pistons are pneumatically operable and are adjustable to compensate for different weights of the tubular.

12. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed claim 1, wherein an upper part of said body comprises a splined recess into which a splined connecting member may be located.

B2 13. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said support is disposed about an upper part of said body having one or more bearings arranged therebetween to allow said body to rotate with respect to said support.

14. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a rotary transmission to allow hydraulic or pneumatic fluid to pass through said body.

5/17 15. (Amended) An apparatus for connecting tubulars using a top drive, comprising:  
a body connectable to said top drive;  
at least one gripping element radially displaceable to drivingly engage a tubular to permit a screw connection between said tubular and a further tubular to be tightened to a required torque; and  
a sealing packer to inhibit, in use, fluid in said tubular from escaping therefrom.

16. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said sealing packer can be actuated by hydraulic or pneumatic fluid.

17. (Cancel) An apparatus (201) for running tubulars (213) into a borehole, said apparatus comprising:  
a body (202) provided with  
a wedge lock assembly (212) and a hydraulically operable grapple (210) to mechanically grip the inside wall of a tubular (213) to be run into, or withdrawn from, the

borehole, said grapple incorporating positive locking means to prevent inadvertent release of said grapple, said body further comprising

means (214) to prevent spillage of drilling fluid when the body is withdrawn from the tubular,

a sealing packer (215) for engagement with the tubular to permit fluid to be circulated within the tubular, and

a stabbing guide (216).

18. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the grapple (210) is connected to a hydraulic piston assembly (204,207) to permit engagement of the grapple with the inside walls of the tubular (213) to enable mechanical lift to be applied to the tubular.

19. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the hydraulic piston assembly (204,207) is biased towards a failsafe position by a compression spring (209).

20. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the hydraulic piston assembly incorporates a cylinder (204) which is either formed integrally with the body (202) or is attached thereto by threading or flanging.

21. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the body (202) is provided with a slip-ring assembly to enable hydraulic fluid to be supplied to the hydraulic piston assembly (204,207) whilst at the same time permitting rotation of the body and the tubular (213) thereon.

22. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, which is adapted to be used with different sizes of tubular.

23. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the body (202) is fitted with a bull-nose guide (216) to prevent damage to the top of the tubular when the body is introduced into the tubular.

24. (Cancel) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the body (202) is provided with a through bore (217) to permit circulation of fluid.

25. (Cancel) A top drive having an apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim attached thereto.

Please add the following new claims 26-35:

Sub 42  
26. (New) An apparatus for connecting tubulars, comprising:

a top drive;

a body connectable to the top drive; and

at least one recess disposed about an outer surface of the body, wherein each recess comprises a gripping element,

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wherein the gripping element is radially displaceable by hydraulic or pneumatic fluid to engage a first tubular.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the gripping element transfers rotational torque from the top drive to permit a screw connection between the first tubular and a second tubular.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the screw connection is tightened to a prescribed moment.

29. (New) An apparatus for connecting tubulars, comprising;

a top drive;

a body having a first and second section;

one or more recesses disposed about an outer diameter of the second section;

and

a radially expandable gripping element disposed with each recess.

Sub 43  
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the first section comprises a splined recess into which a splined connecting member may be located.